

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MAX REED

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Iowan Max Reed of Bellevue for being selected as a Star of Life by the Iowa Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Association.

Ahead of National EMS Week in May, the American Ambulance Association has recently recognized our nation's best emergency responders, who embody the example of honorable and professional service in their communities. Stars of Life, like Max, are selected by their paramedic, emergency medical technician (EMT), and ambulance service personnel peers to represent them in Washington, D.C. as they meet with Members of Congress.

A founder of the Bellevue Ambulance Service in 1972, Max is the only "founding father" of the 46 volunteer member service still actively responding to the community's calls. Mr. Reed has completed every level of EMT in our great state and has truly seen it all. From consoling grieving friends and families of accident victims to comforting new parents as their babies are brought into this world, there is no doubt Max's work has led him to become one of his community's greatest advocates. A CPR instructor since 1973, Mr. Reed assists his community with CPR instruction and education, as well as several other events related to his work, including EMS Education Days and Operation Prom, just to name a couple. Max's selfless efforts have helped grow the Bellevue Ambulance Service's location from a small section in the local fire department to a new independent building that he helped design. Of course, Max would say he could have never attained this level of success if not for the love and support of his wife, Mary.

Mr. Speaker, for over 41 years Mr. Reed has unselfishly given his time and talents to ensure his community is well cared for. Max's co-workers count him as a mentor, an advisor and a great friend, and I find it no surprise they have entrusted him with the distinction of representing them and their shared passion this week in Washington, D.C. as a Star of Life. Max's leadership is a testament to the hard working people of Iowa, and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating him on a remarkable career, thanking him for his decades of service, and wishing him continued success in the years ahead.

IN MEMORIAM OF RITA VOGLER

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of my constituents,

Rita Vogler, who passed away last week from lung cancer. A valued member of the Hesperia, California community, Rita formerly served as mayor and a city councilwoman. She also furthered the interests of the City of Hesperia as an active member of the Hesperia Kiwanis Club and the National Federation of Republican Women.

Rita is just one of 1,660,290 people expected to be diagnosed with cancer this year, according to the American Cancer Society's statistics. Approximately 580,350 Americans will die of cancer this year, or 1,600 people per day. In my home state of California alone, 57,290 people are expected to die from cancer in 2013.

I hope Rita's death will remind my colleagues of the importance of our continued pursuit of a cure for this terrible disease. At the signing of the National Cancer Act of 1971, President Nixon declared war on cancer. In that year, 215,000 Americans died from cancer. Yet the number of deaths each year has more than doubled to reach the 2013 prediction, and even when adjusted for population inflation, incidence and death rates have not shown the evidence of the nation's efforts to eradicate the disease. More Americans continue to die, leaving family and friends behind to mourn their losses. In Rita's case, her death came barely two weeks after her diagnosis with lung cancer. However, I am encouraged by the progress made by researchers every year and hope that we continue to see strides forward.

Rita's friends describe her as kind and sincere, a mentor and inspiration to many, devoted to serving her community. She is survived by her husband Al and children Rocky and Allise.

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

HON. ALAN NUNNELEE

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, over 1,000,000 people have had their sight restored since the Eye Bank Association of America was created in 1961. Since 1983, each March has been designated as National Eye Donor Month. As a recipient of two corneal transplants, I am honored to participate this year.

In high school I was diagnosed with keratoconus, a degenerative disease of the cornea. From then and through much of my college life, I lived with the belief that I would one day lose my eyesight. As a junior in college, I was told I was potentially a good candidate for cornea replacement surgery. On April 25, 1980, I had my first surgery and the results were almost instantaneous. Two years later, I had another, equally successful transplant procedure on my other eye. I live every day with the knowledge that not only was my vision saved, it took tremendous strength and compassion on the part of two families to make it possible.

With corneas, the doctors are not concerned with matching by blood type, but they need to match by age. The reason is simple: the cornea does not need to wear out before the recipient does. So two families who lost a son, daughter, husband, or wife in their teens-to-mid-twenties made a decision under the worst of circumstances, and donated their loved ones corneas so that a stranger might see.

I encourage all Americans to register to become eye donors and inform your families of your wishes.

I urge my colleagues to work with their local eye banks and the EBAA to promote eye donation and its life enhancing effects on corneal recipients.

During this month, let us remember the donors and their families who have forever changed so many lives, including my own, for the better.

ANASTASIA LAWRENCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anastasia Lawrence for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anastasia Lawrence is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anastasia Lawrence is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anastasia Lawrence for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

9TH GRADER SOPHIE BOUCHER OF NAUGATUCK, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you and all of my colleagues a letter I recently received from Sophie Boucher, a ninth grade student at Naugatuck High School in the Borough of Naugatuck, Connecticut. She writes:

"I think everyone in this state, country, continent, and world can agree that the events that unfolded in Newtown were tragic. Our hearts go out to the kids and teachers who lost their lives in Sandy Hook and also

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to their parents. We can do something to prevent this from happening again, though. I feel that one of the first issues we should address to restrain this from occurring again is gun control."

"We have all heard the saying, 'Guns don't kill people. People kill people.' That may be true, but guns make it a whole heck of a lot easier. On the same day that Sandy Hook faced tragedy, 22 children in China were stabbed. Not one child was killed. If that man who stabbed these children had a gun, chances are the children would have been killed. We cannot just let anyone get their hands on guns, especially assault weapons. There should be stricter laws on who can obtain guns and who cannot."

"I feel that one of the ways to go about the stricter laws is by looking at a person's medical history before they obtain a gun. Furthermore, not only the medical history of the person wanting to own the gun should be looked at, but also the medical history of the people living in the house with them. If a mother has a gun in the house, a child, whether the child has mental health issues or not, could easily get their hands on it. We saw this example hold true with Adam Lanza. Though Adam Lanza's mental history was not known, it would have been a smart idea to keep all weapons of any kind away from him. By not having any kind of weapon around a person with a mental health issue, we will be able to decrease shootings of any kind. Therefore, the medical history of the person obtaining the gun and the people living with them should be looked at."

"Sincerely, Sophie Boucher, 9th Grader"

Like my colleagues, I always appreciate hearing from my constituents. I share this particular correspondence because it should serve us all as a reminder that there are many ways in which the Congress can act to address the issues surrounding gun violence—the point is we need to act.

HONORING TIMOTHY BOWMAN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a young constituent, Timothy Curtis Bowman of Osgood, Indiana.

Curtis attended South Ripley High School and actively participated in the county FFA. He won numerous forestry awards at the state level, enjoyed deer hunting, and worked with his father in their tree trimming business.

We mourn a life that ended too soon and pray for understanding and comfort for family members and those in our community who knew and loved Curtis. While in times of turmoil we struggle to understand the unexplainable, may we find peace and joy in our religious faith and the memories of time shared with those we love.

Curtis will be forever remembered as a friend of his community. I ask the citizens of the 6th Congressional District to join me in keeping his parents, Tim and Pat Pennington Bowman, siblings, Keith, Michael, Tiffany, and Krista, and the entire extended Bowman family in our thoughts and prayers.

ANGELICA MOLINA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelica Molina for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angelica Molina is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angelica Molina is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Angelica Molina for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SUPPORT OF THE FLIGHT SCHOOL
SECURITY ACT OF 2013

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "Flight School Security Act of 2013."

This bipartisan legislation closes a known aviation security gap by requiring individuals seeking flight training on aircraft with a maximum certified takeoff weight of more than 12,500 pounds to be checked against the terrorist watchlist prior to receiving flight training.

I am proud to have the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Cedric Richmond, and the Chairman of the Committee's Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, Patrick Meehan, as original cosponsors of this important legislation.

Under current law, a flight instructor, pilot school, or aviation training center are only required to check aliens—non-United States citizens—against the terrorist watchlist and receive a determination from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) as to whether that individual presents a risk to aviation or national security prior to providing flight training.

U.S. citizens who seek the same training do not undergo these simple checks.

As a matter of practice, daily checks against the terrorist watchlist are only undertaken for aliens and individuals who hold valid airman's certifications issued by the Federal Aviation Administration; TSA does not check the names of those seeking or undertaking flight training against the watchlist until after they have already been trained on how to fly a plane and are applying for a certificate to take their first solo flight.

The "Flight School Security Act of 2013" closes this security gap by requiring that any

individual seeking training in the operation of any aircraft having a maximum certified takeoff weight of more than 12,500 pounds, including a United States citizen, be checked against the terrorist watchlist to ascertain if the individual may pose a threat to aviation or national security and receive a determination from the Assistant Secretary that the individual does not pose a threat that warrants denial of access to such training.

The "Flight School Security Act of 2013" would subject individuals seeking flight school training to the same terrorist watchlist check that anyone taking a flight domestically undergoes.

It does not compel United States citizens to provide the exhaustive list of personally identifiable information, including fingerprints, which are required to be provided by an alien seeking flight training.

Mr. Speaker, the "Flight School Security Act of 2013" is a common sense, bipartisan bill, crafted in consultation with both TSA and stakeholders.

The bill is the product of the oversight work of the Committee on Homeland Security and represents a common sense solution to a glaring security gap.

Just last week, in an appearance before the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, the TSA Administrator, John S. Pistole, stated that this security gap is an issue that has to be addressed, that Congressional action would be welcome, and that checking those seeking flight training against the terrorist watchlist prior to them commencing flight training would be the best security.

I urge my colleagues to support the "Flight School Security Act of 2013" so that we can be secure in the knowledge that no person who poses a security threat that is significant enough to be blocked from boarding an aircraft is allowed to learn to fly one.

HONORING BRONZE STAR MEDAL
RECIPIENT SPECIALIST BERNARD L. RUSTAD

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Specialist Bernard L. Rustad, who will be awarded with the Bronze Star Medal on April 5, 2013, for his bravery and selflessness while serving in Vietnam.

Specialist Rustad served with the 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division during Combat Operation Lam Son 719. On April 6, 1971, Specialist Rustad's unit was providing security for the last withdrawing units from the Khe Sahn airstrip area, in the midst of heavy enemy fire. During this time, Specialist Rustad noticed that soldiers from the neighboring unit had been wounded and left unattended. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Rustad ran to their assistance and saved the lives of these young men.

Specialist Rustad's actions demonstrated true bravery—and also stand as an example to all of us as what true selflessness looks like.

It is an honor to present Specialist Bernard L. Rustad with the Bronze Star Medal, and I thank him for his service and sacrifice.

ARACELI MEDEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Araceli Medel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Araceli Medel is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Araceli Medel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Araceli Medel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING MN STATE COMMANDER OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, ROBERT J. ERICKSON

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Robert J. Erickson, upon the completion of his term as the State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Minnesota (DAV MN). Commander Erickson has been committed to fulfilling the primary mission of DAV MN and honoring the promises our nation made to the brave men and women who have served America in uniform. I am honored to call him a personal friend.

From the broadest vision to the smallest detail serving disabled veterans, Commander Erickson has been intimately involved in the various ways the DAV MN accomplishes its mission. He has visited all 31 state chapters, from Rochester, to Fergus Falls, to Hibbing, Minnesota, and witnessed firsthand how veterans are served—and how many veterans still serve through volunteering. Under his direction, DAV MN has several unique programs to serve specific needs of Minnesota's disabled veterans. Minnesotans love the outdoors, and DAV MN organizes hunting and fishing trips to allow all veterans to continue to access these wonderful opportunities. Commander Erickson speaks proudly about the joy he sees in the hundreds of volunteers and veterans who participate in these outings.

Under Commander Erickson's leadership, DAV Magazine recently highlighted the DAV MN Donor Connection program, which has provided approximately \$400,000 in donated equipment for disabled veterans. Another source of pride is the partnership with the Minnesota Twins: the MN Twins/DAVMN Winter Warm Up Coat Drive that collects new and gently used coats for disabled veterans and

their families. None of these commendable efforts would be possible without Commander Erickson and his tireless team.

Commander Erickson has left a lasting mark through his leadership role on the board of the DAV MN Foundation, the charitable arm of the organization which supports projects by chapters, units, and partner organizations throughout the state. The DAV MN Foundation provides clothing and emergency assistance to homeless veterans, assists in funding the five state veterans homes, provides funds for various camps and lakeside retreats that allow veterans safe and accessible places to enjoy the outdoors, and assists with other equipment and needs for veterans living in our MN Veterans Homes. The DAV Transportation Network also serves a critical link, providing veterans with free transportation to and from VA medical facilities. Commander Erickson has helped to lead these critical programs and more as part of repaying the debt owed to our disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Robert Erickson's service as Commander of DAV MN, I am pleased to submit this statement recognizing the achievements of this dedicated servant to our disabled veterans and this nation.

CONGRATULATING WAYNE SAWTELLE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wayne Sawtelle on his retirement from the Marshalltown Fire Department. Wayne has served his community honorably for almost two decades as a Lieutenant with the Fire Department.

Lieutenant Sawtelle has dedicated his life to the protection and safety of his fellow community members. His first day on the job in 1994 found him putting out a fire at the Sutherland Coal Plant. After 19 years, he has become a friend and mentor to his colleagues at the Fire Department. His experience and wisdom will surely be missed by his fellow firefighters.

Wayne has also been a leader and active member of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and the Iowa Federation of Labor (IFL). Wayne served as Vice President at Large for the IFL as well as President of the IAFF Local 16. He has been a strong advocate for better safety and working conditions for his fellow firefighters.

Lieutenant Wayne Sawtelle has put his life at risk to protect members of his community and I'm honored to represent him in Congress. I congratulate him on his retirement. I wish him and his wife Ann all the best in their future plans and endeavors.

ASHLYN CARMOSINO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ashlyn Carmosino for receiving the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ashlyn Carmosino is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ashlyn Carmosino is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ashlyn Carmosino for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th Anniversary of the St. Clair County Bar Association, in St. Clair County, Illinois.

Prior to 1963, there were two bar associations in St. Clair County, the East St. Louis Bar Association and the Belleville Bar Association. East St. Louis was, at that time, the most populous city in St. Clair County and Belleville, just to the east, was the county seat. A review of the Illinois Court System that led to the current judicial structure also prompted the East St. Louis and Belleville Bar Associations to combine and form the St. Clair County Bar Association.

The stated purpose of the St. Clair County Bar Association is "cultivating the science of jurisprudence, promoting reform in the law, facilitating the administration of justice, elevating the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, encouraging a thorough and liberal legal education and cultivating and cherishing a spirit of camaraderie among the members thereof." They accomplish this through a number of programs and initiatives that extend the benefits of the organization beyond its members to include their entire community.

The Bar Association fosters and promotes continuing legal education and its mentoring program takes advantage of the wealth of experience within its membership to assist newer members.

The St. Clair County Bar Association Foundation is the charitable arm of the Bar Association and channels a number of assistance and charitable initiatives back to the community, including extensive pro bono legal assistance. The Bar Association's Law Day Run, now in its 12th year raises money for the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, which assists low-income residents with obtaining legal services. Their participation in the Lawyers Feeding Illinois initiative has brought in tremendous support to help provide nutritional assistance for the hungry within their community.

The St. Clair County Bar Association has grown to approximately 700 members and is

currently headed by the Honorable Michael N. Cook, President, Thomas B. Cannady, First Vice President, Joe Rosenstengel, Second Vice President, Laura K. Beasley, Secretary and Garrett P. Hoerner, Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Clair County Bar Association on their 50th Anniversary and to wish them the very best in the future.

PRESERVING THE WELFARE WORK REQUIREMENT AND TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, in addition to Chairman CAMP's arguments against the Motion to Recommit, the following are additional reasons for opposing this motion.

1. Totally unnecessary and obviously political. The States already have complete flexibility to decide which needy families with children to cover. So States can and should place a priority on the groups the MTR specified—the unemployed, veterans, victims of violence, grandparents, as well as anyone caring for children with financial need. Democrats argued in the general debate on H.R. 890 that States should be trusted when it comes to the work requirements and that States should have virtually unlimited flexibility in implementing them. Why do they think in their MTR that States cannot be trusted when it comes to the even more elemental issue of whom to cover with TANF assistance? The answer is the MTR is an obviously political statement in search of a problem.

2. Potentially harmful. Current law includes a broad provision allowing States to screen for and identify victims of domestic violence and then create special programs and services designed to address their needs, such as waiving time limits, child support cooperation and related requirements as appropriate. Many States have done so. The MTR, coming afterward, suggests that “Nothing in this Act shall prohibit or limit” States from “providing assistance, job opportunities, or educational training” for “women who are victims of domestic violence.” Why is this necessary? Are the current law protections applied by States, which would be extended for nine months under H.R. 890, not sufficient? Are States implementing them poorly or not at all? The MTR does not say. But given that the current protections afforded by States may be broader than the short list of protections in the MTR, is the MTR supposed to be limiting on States in terms of how and what they provide in terms of special help for such individuals? Again, the MTR does not say, creating confusion and potentially narrowing protections for a sensitive group.

3. Restoring the individual entitlement to welfare benefits—regardless of income? The MTR suggests a fundamental change in the nature of the TANF program. States must now spend TANF funds on “needy” families with children, with States defining financial need. However, the MTR suggests that “Nothing in this Act” (which if added to the underlying bill would mean effectively the TANF program)

“shall prohibit or limit” States from providing “assistance” to “unemployed parents” or “grandparents” caring for the children of individuals in, or who died while serving in, the Armed Forces. It does not State that such adults and families must be “needy.” While many of these families will no doubt be “needy” by States’ definition, not all will be. Yet the MTR says that all must receive “assistance” (which generally means a welfare check) from the TANF program. Is it really the intention of the authors of the MTR to require the payment of welfare checks to families that are not “needy”? This smacks of a return to the pre-TANF era when there was an individual entitlement to welfare benefits in Federal law, which was a key impediment to States’ engaging low-income families in work and productive activities needed to help them support themselves. Even worse, especially given the capped nature of TANF funds, requiring States to provide welfare checks to households in which one parent may be unemployed, for example, while the other works full-time in a high-paying job, would certainly diminish funds available to assist truly needy families with children.

4. Points to other key flaws in the Administration’s waiver proposal. When Ways and Means staff reviewed HHS internal documents about their waiver plan on February 8, 2013, one of the key findings was that HHS staff has long believed the Secretary has the authority not only to waive work requirements for welfare recipients, but also other key program features like time limits and even the requirement that States must limit TANF benefits to families that include children. Yet the MTR, whose supporters argued in support of the Administration’s waiver authority, lists supposed protections for parents and grandparents caring for children. Which begs the question—do supporters of the Administration’s waiver authority and MTR want to allow States to pay welfare checks to single adults without children, as the Administration believes it has the authority to do? Or do they think that TANF assistance should continue to be payable only to families with children, as current law provides and the MTR seems to suggest?

BETINA PIETERSE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Betina Pieterse for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Betina Pieterse is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Betina Pieterse is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Betina Pieterse for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all of her future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRAQ WAR

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House to observe a moment of somber remembrance for the 10th anniversary of the start of the Iraq War. On March 19, 2003, the U.S. Armed Forces invaded Iraq in what would become one of the most drawn-out missions in our military’s history—a mission that would end in more than 4,000 fatalities and 31,000 wounded.

All too often, these brave men and women risk their lives to serve our country, only to return home to face a different type of battle—a battle to receive the care and benefits that they deserve.

Earlier this month, in a commitment to provide high-quality healthcare to our veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs opened a new Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Joliet, Illinois. As part of the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, the 60,000 square foot facility will offer state-of-the-art healthcare, providing a variety of services including: primary care, physical, occupational, and speech therapies, health education, mental health treatment, women’s healthcare, nutrition, and retinal imaging.

With more than 5,000 veterans already signed up to receive treatment at the Joliet Clinic, the facility will go a long way toward providing the healthcare that our men and women in uniform deserve. I am proud to have the Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Hospital Outpatient Clinic serving our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to not only join me in remembering those who lost their lives serving our great nation, but to also recognize and thank those veterans who have returned home after defending our country bravely and honorably.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the third anniversary of the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, March 23, 2013, which, among other things, expands eligibility for Medicaid to reduce the number of Americans without health insurance, I introduce the District of Columbia Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2013 today to increase the federal government’s reimbursement for the District of Columbia’s Medicaid costs from 70 to 75 percent. Medicaid is financed mostly by the federal government and the states. However, the District, a city that has no state to support it, must alone absorb the state portion of Medicaid. For example, the District pays for 30 percent of Medicaid. New York City pays less than 25 percent, since a

2005 state law reduced its contribution from 25 percent. The District certainly should pay no more than New York City's pre-2005 contribution and therefore my bill would raise the federal contribution to the District's Medicaid program to 75 percent. Considering the expansion of Medicaid eligibility under the new health care reform law, effective 2014, now is the time to make the District's Medicaid burden more equitable.

Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Revitalization Act), Congress recognized that state costs are too high for any city to shoulder. To address this unfairness to the District, the Revitalization Act transferred certain state responsibilities from the District to the federal government, including prisons and courts, and increased the federal Medicaid reimbursement to the District from 50 to 70 percent, partially relieving this burden. The city continues to carry many state costs, however.

In 1997, a formula error in the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital allotment reduced the 70 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage share, and, as a result, the District received only \$23 million instead of the \$49 million it was due. I was able to secure a technical correction in the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially increasing the annual allotment to \$32 million from fiscal year 2000 forward. I appreciate that in 2005, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of \$20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing DC's Medicaid reimbursements to \$57 million as intended by the Revitalization Act. However, this amount did not reimburse the District for the years the federal error denied the city part of its federal contribution, and, in any case, of course, was not intended to eliminate the District's structural deficit, which this bill partially addresses.

The bill is part of my series of bills for equal treatment of DC. The series of bills addresses inappropriate and often unequal restrictions placed only on the District, and no other U.S. jurisdiction.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

ANDREW RABBITT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Andrew Rabbitt for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Andrew Rabbitt is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Andrew Rabbitt is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their life.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrew Rabbitt for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING CONNECTICUT'S PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join the many who have gathered in Connecticut's capitol to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Formed under Connecticut statute and charged with a mission to study and improve Connecticut women's economic security, health and safety; promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions; and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination, the PCSW is our state's leading force for women's equality.

Women, in the workplace and in our society, have come a long way since the women's suffrage movement in the 19th century and the women's rights movement of the 20th century, during which time the PCSW was first established. Today, ninety-seven women serve in the two Houses of the United States Congress and thousands serve at the state and municipal levels as well. In fact, in Connecticut, women hold fifty-five seats in the General Assembly and half of the Constitutional offices. Women own their own businesses and are leading some of the largest corporations in the world. And yet women still face a myriad of obstacles in our society. Women still make seventy-seven cents to every dollar earned by a man in comparable positions and there is still a stigma attached to women in the workforce—employers still concerned about women who may have children or are thinking about starting a family and how those choices may impact their job performance or attendance. Women statistically live longer than men yet they have less retirement security, until very recently health research did not take into consideration the basic biological differences between men and women, and sexual harassment and discrimination continue to persist in a variety of forms.

The PCSW, through policy research as well as education and awareness programs, has helped to shape the debate around these and many other issues impacting the lives of Connecticut women and create public policy that makes a difference. The PCSW has had a leadership role in advancing legislation in Connecticut to prohibit sex discrimination in credit transactions, create the first family and medical leave protections in the country, and require health insurance plans to cover a minimum of forty-eight hours hospital stay for normal childbirth and ninety-six for caesarian sections. Each of these efforts now stand as law in Connecticut and have acted as a model for legislation in other states as well as at the federal level.

Under the outstanding leadership of Executive Director Teresa Younger, the PCSW is continuing in its strong tradition of ensuring that issues that impact women and their families are at the forefront of Connecticut's public policy discussions. I have spent much of my time in Congress focused on these issues and have often turned to the PCSW for guidance and support. It is with great pride and my

deepest thanks that I rise today to congratulate them on their 40th Anniversary and wish them all the best for continued success.

RECOGNIZING SANDY FEINBERG

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding resident of New York's 1st Congressional District, Sandy Feinberg.

In 1971, Sandy began her career at the Middle Country Public Library as a children's librarian. This position would lead to a forty-two year career as one of the most innovative and influential librarians on Long Island. She was named the Library Director in 1991 in recognition of her hard work and vision, a position she would hold for the next 22 years.

As Library Director, Sandy oversaw the expansion and renovation of two library locations. In 1999, she oversaw the transformation of the library's Centereach location into the largest public library on Long Island. Today, through innovative programs and extraordinary effort, it is not only the largest, but the busiest public library on Long Island.

As a pioneer in library-community interaction, she founded the Family Place Libraries initiative. This comprehensive library-based early childhood and family support program has been replicated in more than 350 libraries in 24 states.

Sandy continued the library's advancement by overseeing the opening of the Miller Business Resource Center, a regional resource to promote economic development through small businesses, entrepreneurs, and not-for-profit organizations. She also founded the Museum Corner, an interactive exhibit space with rotating hands-on educational exhibits for children. Finally, she created the Nature Explorium, a first-in-the-nation library-based outdoor learning space where children can learn about nature.

Sandy has also focused her attention on those in need outside of the library. She established the Community Resource Database, a collection of not-for-profit and government agencies available to assist residents in need. Eventually, the database would become Long Island 211, a telephone service center to connect those in need with available resources.

She served as President of the Middle Country Chamber of Commerce and was a founding member of the Middle Country Coalition for Smart Growth. She served on the boards of the Child Care Council of Suffolk County and the Long Island Museum of Art, and is currently the Chairwoman of the Board of the Early Years Institute.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of New York's 1st Congressional District, I thank Sandy Feinberg for her years of dedicated service to our community. Her passion and enthusiasm for nurturing young minds has had a positive impact on countless families. Her willingness to initiate new tasks and challenges is an inspiration to us all. While her phenomenal leadership and ingenuity will surely be missed, her imprint on the community will endure for years to come.

APRIL CENDEJAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud April Cendejas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. April Cendejas is a 10th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by April Cendejas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to April Cendejas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE
FULBRIGHT AWARD

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the individuals from the 23rd District of New York who were recently awarded the Fulbright Award. Thirteen constituents from my district were selected to receive this prestigious honor: Dr. Christopher Barrett, Ms. Emily Brown, Ms. Abena Bruce, Ms. Dina Bryan, Dr. Abigail Cohn, Dr. Matthew Evangelista, Mr. Andrew Hart, Dr. Teresa Jordan, Ms. Catherine Kearns, Mr. Joshua Kim, Mr. John Maher, Dr. Judith McKinney, and Ms. Sarah Steece.

The recipients include both undergraduate students and scholars from a wide range of higher education institutions including Cornell University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Ithaca College, New York University, Stanford University, and Williams College.

The Fulbright Program is America's largest international exchange program, having linked over a quarter of a million students with more than 155 countries worldwide. These opportunities not only offer our students a chance to educate themselves in foreign nations but these programs also help to strengthen our relationships with their host countries. Since 1977 when the Fulbright Association was established, many notable individuals have been recipients of this award. Ten Fulbright recipients have been elected to the United States Congress, 43 have received a Nobel Prize, and 78 have received the Pulitzer Prize.

Fulbright Award recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement as well as the leadership potential they show in their fields. It is a privilege to represent a district that so many of these award recipients call home. The bar has now been set very high, and I am proud to have them representing our nation as ambassadors abroad.

ON THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, as a proud Irish American, I was pleased this past Sunday to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Celebrating our heritage today has become an American tradition that extends beyond those Americans of Irish heritage. But that wasn't always the case. For many years, Irish Americans faced discrimination and struggled to gain acceptance and economic stability in the great melting pot that is America.

The story of Irish Americans and all Americans needs to be told. We are a nation of immigrants. But there is no place today where one can go to learn the full story of who we are as a nation and the stories of the many, vibrant ethnicities that make up the fabric of the American experience. The story about the making of the American People—of all of the people—is missing and it needs to be told in the heart of our nation's capital.

That's why I am introducing a bipartisan resolution that calls for a Presidential Commission to study the establishment of the National Museum of the American People. I am joined in effort by my colleagues JOHN DUNCAN, CAROLYN MALONEY, CHARLIE RANGEL, FRANK WOLF, GERALD CONNOLLY, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, BOBBY SCOTT, DAVID CICILLINE, TIM WALZ, TIM BISHOP, TOM COLE and JIM GERLACH.

A commission is the first critical step in the path toward the creation of a national museum that will highlight the diversity and richness of the cultures from which our ancestors came and will foster a sense of belonging to the nation by the waves of people who made us the leading economic, military, scientific, and cultural force in the world. The Museum's central theme takes its inspiration from our original national motto: "E Pluribus Unum"—From Many We Are One.

The Museum will be America's only national institution devoted exclusively to telling the full story of how the world's pioneers interwove their diverse races, religions, and ethnicities into the strongest societal fabric ever known to modern mankind. Both Canada and Mexico have major national museums in their capitals telling the story of their peoples and they are the most visited museums in those nations. People from every ethnic and minority group will come to see their own story and learn how they joined together with "the others" in pursuit of a more noble national purpose. Foreign visitors will come to learn how natives of their countries helped create our nation.

I fully understand the current fiscal realities of the day. This proposal will involve no authorization of federal funds and will not require the need for any taxpayer money. It does, however, already enjoy broad support having been endorsed by more than 150 organizations representing virtually every major ethnic and nationality group in the nation.

For the different groups who became Americans, the Museum will tell who, where, when, why and how transformed our nation. Today's technology makes all of this possible.

The Museum of the American People will be like walking through a dramatic documentary

delving into these grand movements of peoples. It will follow in the tradition of some of today's most successful story-telling museums such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum. The goal will be to tell our peoples' compelling story with force and clarity.

In telling everyone's story, the National Museum of the American People would recognize the important differences that set us apart while celebrating the common purpose that has brought us together—E Pluribus Unum.

I encouraged my colleagues to support this measure.

ARIANNA MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arianna Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Arianna Martinez is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Arianna Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Arianna Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: On rollcall No. 73—"yea"; No. 74—"yea"; No. 75—"nay."

HONORING SANDRA SECREST FOR
30 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Sandra Secrest for her 30 years of public service to the Metrocrest area which encompasses the North Texas cities of Carrollton, Farmers Branch, and Addison.

Sandra Secrest was born and raised in Farmers Branch and graduated from W.T. White High School in 1979. She then attended Texas A&M University from 1979 to 1983 where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education.

Following graduation in 1983, Sandra Secrest returned home to Farmers Branch

where she became a social studies teacher at Newman Smith High School of Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District. From 1988 to 1992, Sandra Secrest worked as a Park Ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during her summer breaks from teaching.

After ten years of teaching, in 1993, Sandra Secrest changed her career to become a police officer for the City of Carrollton where she committed 20 years of service to the community. Ms. Secrest spent her first 5 years as a patrol officer, the following 8 years as a school resource officer, and the final 7 years back on patrol duty. As a school resource officer, she spent the majority of her time at Creekview High School and R.L. Turner High School. During her tenure as school resource officer, Ms. Secrest was a member of the Carrollton Police Department Gang Unit and Texas Gang Violence Task Force.

Sandra Secrest has spent her entire career serving and protecting her community. Ms. Secrest's commitment to her community speaks volumes to the integrity of her character. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Sandra Secrest for her 30 years of public service.

AVA KOPPERSCHLAGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ava Kopperschlager for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ava Kopperschlager is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ava Kopperschlager is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ava Kopperschlager for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
RUSSELL SIMPSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the life of Russell Simpson, who passed from this life on Tuesday, March 15, 2013. Russell Simpson had a true servant's heart and his life helped countless others.

Mr. Simpson was born October 14, 1934. A lifelong Toledoan, he graduated from Libbey High School and served in the United States

Army. He married his wife, Patricia, in 1958 and they began their family. He was a Greyhound bus driver, a career which served him well later in life when he served older adults as a driver for senior center activities and excursions.

In 1969, the unthinkable happened and the Simpsons' four-year-old daughter was murdered. Their grief was compounded twelve years later when their nineteen-year-old son was killed during a robbery. Incredibly, out of these two horrific and senseless tragedies, the Simpsons bore fruit. In 1983, the Simpsons formed Parents of Murdered Children, a nationally recognized support group. Soon, parents with similar tragic tales had a place where they belonged and could share their grief with people who understood. As his daughter noted, "He got through it by helping other people get through it."

Russell Simpson was successful in persuading the county prosecutor to create a victims assistance fund. He trained to facilitate face-to-face meetings with victims or family members and their offender. He worked to educate the community and law enforcement to strengthen communication. Most importantly, he was a calm shoulder, a kind heart, compassionate eyes and a strong leader to families facing the ultimate tragedy.

Russell Simpson leaves a legacy of service. His selfless work will endure into the future. Even as he helped other families, he never lost sight of his own. Our condolences to his wife Patricia, his children Linda Lou and David, and his grandchildren. May the light which shone for others guide you as well, and in your memories may you find peace.

HONORING SAMANTHA HANSEN

SPEECH OF

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a young constituent, Samantha Rae Hansen of Holton, Indiana.

Samantha attended South Ripley High School and actively participated in a number of school clubs, including science, Spanish, and band. She was a school leader on the student council and served as president of the FFA and Country Critters 4-H club. Along with her family, she also was a member of the First Southern Baptist Church in Versailles, participating in the church choir.

We mourn a life that ended too soon and pray for understanding and comfort for family members and those in our community who knew and loved Samantha. While in times of turmoil we struggle to understand the unexplainable, may we find peace and joy in our religious faith and the memories of time shared with those we love.

Samantha will be forever remembered as a friend of her community. I ask the citizens of the 6th Congressional District to join me in keeping her parents, Matthew and Jenny Wahl Hansen, sisters, Amanda and Nikki, and the entire extended Hansen family in our thoughts and prayers.

BAILEE YODER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bailee Yoder for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Bailee Yoder is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Bailee Yoder is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Bailee Yoder for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
JOSEPH DENNIS HELTON, JR.

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a special purpose, calling us all to remember and honor the life of First Lieutenant Joseph Dennis Helton, Jr. On September 8, 2009, Lieutenant Helton was tragically killed in action while serving our country in Iraq.

Like many of our nation's heroes, Lieutenant Helton was an exceptional young man with a calling to be a part of something greater than himself. His desire to serve led him to the United States Air Force Academy where he graduated fifth in his class and was the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions.

Upon graduation, Lieutenant Helton was assigned to the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. As exceptional young soldiers often do, he immediately volunteered for overseas duty, leading him to Iraq. Lieutenant Helton was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his fortitude, bravery, and courage and the Purple Heart for his ultimate sacrifice.

As we remember and honor Lieutenant Helton and his sacrifice for our freedom, let us not forget his parents, Joseph and Jennifer, his sisters, Jeanne, Jessica, and Jordanne, and many other loving family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, may we as grateful citizens, and Members of this body, never forget the passing of this courageous young man and encourage all Americans to honor his sacrifice which was made in defense of liberty and of this great nation. I proudly pay tribute to his memory and hold his service in the highest esteem.

HONORING T.C. FREEMAN

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to someone who has a long and distinguished record of service to our country and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This lady has spent a majority of her life connected to United States Army. At 80 years young, she currently serves as a civilian aide for the United States Army in Kentucky. Of course, I am referring to Mrs. T.C. Freeman who recently celebrated her 80th Birthday on March 10th.

T.C. Freeman's life has revolved around our Army since 1941 when Killeen, Texas was designated the home of Camp Hood. She met and married her husband, Colonel Bob Freeman (Ret) when he was assigned to the 3d Artillery, 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood. She and Bob have three children, a daughter Gil, and two sons William and Robert.

For her efforts on behalf of Soldiers during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, T.C. Freeman was awarded Association of the United States Army's Citation for Exceptional Service. In 2002, she received their Anthony Drexel Bidle Medal, which is their second-highest award. She served as Tennessee/Kentucky Chapter President of the Association of the United States Army for two years, and as the Kentucky State President for two years. She also served four years as the 2nd Region President and now once again serves as a Kentucky State President.

T.C. Freeman is a life member of the Association of the United States Army. She is an honorary member of the 502nd, the 187th Infantry, the 327th and 506th Infantry Regiments. She is also an honorary member of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and of the 5th Special Forces Group. She holds the Anne Morrow Lindberg Award and the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loretta for her support of Army Aviation and the Aviation Community. She is a Life Member of Army Aviation Association of America.

Mrs. Freeman is also the recipient of Artillery's Molly Pitcher Award and Department of the Army Awards for Public Service and the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. In 2010, she received the Daughters of the American Revolution's Medal of Honor.

T.C. began the "Welcome Home Flights" after Desert Shield/Desert Storm and she has attended almost every flight following—from Kosovo and from other 101st Deployments, to include the recent Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home on August 16, 2009.

Presently, she is welcoming home Division Units from Afghanistan and attends National Guard farewells and welcome homes. She is a supporter of Fisher House and the Wounded Warrior Programs. T.C. Freeman has visited our Warrior Heroes at both Walter Reed and Brooke in San Antonio.

Since May 2005, T.C. has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Governor's Kentucky Military Affairs Commission. The Commission keeps the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky advised of conditions and needs of the installation. She was pleased to be involved last December in the event that named Governor Steve Beshear

as an Honorary Screaming Eagle. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation, the Hopkinsville-Christian County Military Affairs Committee, The Christian County School Superintendents Advisory and the Military Affairs Advisory Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and she is a member of the Citizens for Fort Campbell and an Eagle Ambassador.

T.C. Freeman is a regular attendee of area Veteran's organizations, VFW, DAV and the American Legion.

Since being named a Kentucky Court Appointed Special Advocate, her efforts are not limited to Fort Campbell. She now actively supports activities of the Units at Fort Knox to include United States Army Recruiting Command and the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division.

Mrs. Freeman has also been faithful in her support of the National Guard, the Army Reserve, University and Junior ROTC Units.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of this House T.C. Freeman's remarkable life of faithful service to our Nation's heroes. She is a personal friend, but more importantly a friend to every man and woman who wears our Nation's uniform. It is my honor to recognize her before this House and to wish her a very Happy 80th Birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAM VETS
ASSOCIATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nam Vets Association upon its thirtieth anniversary.

Nam Vets has been providing vital assistance to veterans since the association was founded in 1983. Originally serving veterans of the Vietnam War exclusively, Nam Vets has since expanded and now serves veterans from all eras. Over the years, it has become known as a local gateway to veterans' services for Cape Cod and the Islands, assisting veterans with important tasks such as finding employment and housing, receiving medical care, and obtaining employment.

Coinciding with the thirtieth anniversary of Nam Vets is the opening of its new Veterans' Outreach Grace Center (VOGC) in New Seabury. The VOCG will be a general wellness center through which veterans will receive a variety of services. Such support will include physical, psychological, educational, financial, or vocational assistance aimed at helping veterans reintegrate into civilian life. This Center will play a vital role on Cape Cod once it opens its doors to our local veterans, and I commend Nam Vets for working to achieve this important goal. I am certain that the organization's next thirty years will be bright.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to recognize Nam Vets upon its thirtieth anniversary. The many years of service that the organization has provided have been invaluable to the veterans and families that have been affected by its work. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Nam Vets for all that the association has given to its community.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE
POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF THE
MEDAL OF HONOR TO SERGEANT
RAFAEL PERALTA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a resolution recommending the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to one of America's bravest soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice, Sergeant Rafael Peralta.

Sgt. Peralta's story is the epitome of what makes America great generation after generation. After immigrating as a teenager with his family from Mexico to San Diego, Sgt. Peralta joined the Marines the first chance he was able to—the morning he received his green card. According to his mother, Rosa Peralta, Sgt. Peralta "really loved this country" and loved being a Marine. In fact, he passed along his love for the Marines to his brother, Ricardo, who kept a promise he made at his brother's funeral by enlisting in the Marines Corps in 2010.

In 2004, Sgt. Peralta was killed during a house-clearing mission in Fallujah, Iraq. According to news reports, during a firefight with insurgents, a fragment from a friendly-fire bullet ricocheted and struck Sgt. Peralta in the back of his head. According to eyewitness accounts from fellow Marines who were at the scene, Sgt. Peralta, despite his mortal wound, pulled an enemy grenade under his body and absorbed the ensuing blast. By doing so, he saved the lives of an estimated six of his fellow Marines.

Each of the armed services has provisions for judging whether an individual is eligible for the Medal of Honor—which permit no margin of doubt or error. Historically, the individual's action must be supported by incontestable evidence of at least two eyewitnesses. In Sgt. Peralta's case, seven eyewitnesses confirmed that he smothered the grenade blast with his body. Even though a pathologist report questioned whether Sgt. Peralta could have deliberately brought the grenade to his body due to his wound, separate analyses by three neurologists opined otherwise. His Navy Cross citation, the second highest American military decoration that can be awarded to a Marine, says it all: "Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Peralta reached out and pulled the grenade to his body, absorbing the brunt of the blast and shielding fellow Marines only feet away.

Sgt. Peralta exemplified and lived the values Americans hold dear: honor, duty, and dedication to his country. In a letter written right before his death, Sgt. Peralta told his brother, "I'm proud to be a Marine, a U.S. Marine, and to defend and protect the freedom and Constitution of America. You should be proud of being an American citizen."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and recommend the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to a true American hero, Sgt. Rafael Peralta.

IN HONOR OF MARSHA B. JETTÉ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartiest congratulations and sincere thanks to Marsha Jetté of Norwich. For more than four decades she has assisted the farmers of Connecticut. This past January, Marsha retired after more than 41 years of working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in Connecticut.

After graduating from Norwich Free Academy, Marsha attended Johnson and Wales Junior College in Providence, RI where she took courses in bookkeeping. Between 1969 and 1971 Marsha worked at various companies as a bookkeeper. In 1971, Marsha began her career at USDA with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), now the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as a Program Assistant in the New London County office in Norwich. In 1973 Marsha was made Acting County Executive Director in her office which led her to enter the County Office Training program the following year in order to become a County Executive Director.

Marsha became County Executive Director of the New London County ASCS Office on May 11, 1975. During her tenure in the county office, Marsha also served on the 2007 National CED Classification Review Committee and served as the State Communications Coordinator. In her role as State Communications Coordinator, Marsha coordinated various events including a visit from the FSA Administrator and Washington, DC staff, as well as educational tours from the Connecticut State and County Committee members. Mrs. Jetté also compiled an education text for state and county committee members in order to provide them with a better understanding of FSA and its mission.

In August, 2009, Marsha Jetté was appointed as State Executive Director of FSA in Connecticut by President Barack Obama. In her capacity as Executive Director, Marsha worked tirelessly to promote agriculture in the state and support her staff in Connecticut. The final three and a half years of her tenure at USDA crowned an impressive career. My staff and I called on Marsha countless times—whether to assess damage after a hurricane hit the state or to determine the status of FSA payments, Marsha always had the answer. Mrs. Jetté's absence at the Farm Service Agency will be felt both within and outside the agency for some time to come. I thank her for her many years of service to the agricultural community, congratulate her on her retirement, and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL SILVERMAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Fire Chief Daniel R. Silverman on the occasion of his retirement.

Chief Silverman dedicated his professional life to the Town of Wellfleet and its fire department. He will retire after thirty years and three months of honorable service, including nearly seven years as a full-time Fire Chief. Chief Silverman's outstanding achievements as a first responder are evident in his rise through the ranks. After beginning his career as a Call Firefighter and EMT, he was subsequently awarded the role of Call Lieutenant, Call Deputy Chief, and Fire Chief. Firefighters are a pillar of strength in our society, and they routinely risk their lives to protect our neighborhoods, safeguard our families, and provide urgent aid to those who need it most. Over the course of his impressive career, Chief Silverman has demonstrated an unwavering devotion to those ideals.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Fire Chief Daniel R. Silverman for over three decades of distinguished public service. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring all that Chief Silverman has given to his community.

COMMENDING MR. DAVID PICKLER FOR HIS ELECTION TO PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today to recognize Mr. David Pickler, who has recently been elected as President of the National School Boards Association for 2013–2014.

David has served on the Shelby County Board of Education since 1998 and has served as Chairman of the Board for 12 years. In 2008, David was elected to the National School Boards Association's Board of Directors and served as the Southern Region Representative. In 2009, David served as President of the Tennessee School Boards Association and has held several positions of leadership with it.

David is an excellent example of the spirit of volunteerism, which we Tennesseans hold close to our hearts. His community service and philanthropic endeavors are both numerous and extraordinary, casting a legacy of selflessness and determination to better education across Tennessee. Perhaps the highlight of this legacy is the creation of the Shelby County Schools Education Foundation, which has provided more than \$1 million in financial support for public education. David's awards and accolades at the local, state and national level are extensive and serve as a testament to the positive impact he has had on the children of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Pickler for his unwavering commitment to improving education for the students of Shelby County, Tennessee, and the United States of America.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,736,188,026,047.86. We've added \$6,109,310,977,134.78 to our debt in 3 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on March 18, 2013 due to a declared state of emergency in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall votes Nos. 76, 77, and 78.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OVERDRAFT PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Overdraft Protection Act of 2013.

With the rise of debit cards and the constant presence of swipe terminals to use those cards to pay for everything from dry cleaning to gas to candy bars, it's easier than ever for consumers to overdraw their checking accounts and incur overdraft fees.

That's how a cappuccino can become a \$35 cappuccino faster than you can say "overdrawn". Some institutions have responded to consumer outrage over these fees by implementing a policy of denying debit card transactions that would overdraw an account and I applaud them.

But too many financial institutions don't make consumers adequately aware of the perils of overdrafts, and others reorder the posting of transactions in a way that maximizes their fees.

Although the Federal Reserve issued a rule requiring institutions to obtain affirmative consent from consumers to opt into overdraft coverage two years ago, it is quite clear more needs to be done to help consumers avoid multiple overdrafts.

A survey released last year by Pew Charitable Trusts highlights the need for the bill I am introducing today.

More than one-third of those surveyed—people who had overdrawn their accounts in the past year—didn't know they had overdraft coverage until they incurred a penalty fee, and more than half of people did not believe they had opted in. The Pew study also found that most of the people who overdraft their accounts do so more than once.

According to Moebs Services, overdraft fees brought in over \$31.5 billion dollars in revenue to financial institutions in 2012.

As a result of the Federal Reserve's opt-in requirement the number of overdrafts has fallen, but some institutions have responded to the drop by increasing the price of overdraft fees and continuing to intentionally manipulate the transactions' posting order in a way that maximizes the fees they can earn from this service.

My bill increases disclosure to consumers, limits the fees' price and frequency, and bans the manipulation of transactions.

Specifically, the Overdraft Protection Act will: require consumer consent before banks can permit overdraft fees to paper checks, automated charges and debit card swipe-terminal transactions; require that fees be "reasonable and proportional" to the amount of the overdraft; cap the number of fees that can be charged at one per month and six per year; prohibit banks from manipulating the sequence in which checks and other debits are posted if it causes more overdrafts and maximizes fees paid to banks; require that consumers be warned at ATMs if their withdrawals will trigger an overdraft; require the CFPB to study the practices of pre-paid cards and if necessary extend these provisions to those products.

The Overdraft Protection Act will ensure consumers are protected from misleading practices and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD HUSSEY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Donald Hussey upon his retirement from the Rockland Fire Department.

Lieutenant Hussey has given four decades of dedicated service to the people of Rockland, and I know I speak for many when I say that his many accomplishments have been invaluable to the town. The Department recognized his skill early on when they appointed Lieutenant Hussey to the position of Permanent Firefighter just one year after he first entered the Rockland Fire Call Department. Lieutenant Hussey was again promoted to Permanent Lieutenant in October 1995, the same month in which he was bestowed with a Medal of Valor for saving an elderly person from a burning home. He officially retired from the Rockland Fire Department this past January, and I know that his service will be sorely missed in his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lieutenant Donald Hussey upon his retirement from the Rockland Fire Department after forty years of invaluable service. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on this important occasion and in thanking him for all that he has done for the Town of Rockland.

HONORING JACOB VOGEL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a young constituent, Jacob Russell Vogel of Versailles, Indiana.

Jacob attended South Ripley High School and actively participated in the FFA and as a member of the St. Charles Catholic Church in Milan. He also attended the Southeastern Career Center for emergency services and served as a cadet with the Friendship Fire Department.

We mourn a life that ended too soon and pray for understanding and comfort for family members and those in our community who knew and loved Jacob. While in times of turmoil we struggle to understand the unexplainable, may we find peace and joy in our religious faith and the memories of time shared with those we love.

Jacob will be forever remembered as a friend of his community. I ask the citizens of the 6th Congressional District to join me in keeping his parents, Brian and Ann Sieverding Vogel, siblings, Matthew, Luke, and Jessica, and the entire extended Vogel family in our thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Monday, March 18, 2013 so I missed rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall vote No. 76 regarding the Journal vote, "yes," on rollcall vote No. 77 regarding the "Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service" (H. Con. Res. 18), and on rollcall vote No. 78 regarding the "Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby" (H. Con. Res. 19), "yes."

RECOGNIZING MARCH AS NATIONAL FROZEN FOOD MONTH

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as National Frozen Food Month and to honor one of my home state's own frozen food companies, Seneca Foods Corporation.

Founded in 1949, Seneca Foods is one of our nation's largest processors of fruits and vegetables. In fact, Seneca Foods produces more than 2 billion cans and bags of frozen fruit and vegetable products every year, which equates to over 5 billion servings.

I had the pleasure of visiting Seneca's Gillett, Wisconsin plant last August. There has been an active canning factory on this site since 1909 and Seneca took over the site in 2003.

Seneca Foods believes in providing the community with jobs and continually improving its facilities. At Gillett, this included a 2007 warehouse expansion that tripled the storage space.

There are 37 full-time employees at this facility. But in season, it grows to employ over 210 seasonal employees and has an annual payroll of \$4.3 million.

Much of what I know about Seneca Foods I learned from Executive Vice President and COO Paul Palmby, who serves on the Board of the American Frozen Food Institute and is the chairman of the Produce for Better Health Foundation, PBH, which promote increased consumption of fruits and vegetables for better health.

Both Seneca Foods and the American Frozen Food Institute were recognized recently as PBH Fruits & Veggies—More Matters® Role Models.

Working together, these entities regularly promote the nutritional benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption as part of an important effort to encourage healthy eating.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of National Frozen Food Month, I wish to applaud Seneca Foods and the entire frozen food industry for their hard work and contributions to the health of our nation and its citizens.

HONORING FIVE PLANO EAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, THE AT&T HACKATHON COMPETITION WINNERS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate five remarkable students from Plano East High School on winning first place in the AT&T Hackathon Competition.

The AT&T Hackathon, held at the AT&T Foundry development center in Plano, is a competition to promote innovative technology, the entrepreneurial spirit, and growth in computer science education. The competition is open to all technical and non-technical computer developers and designers across the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Each team is given a little more than 24 hours to create a smartphone app, which helps solve a problem plaguing the community—in this case, the decreasing high school graduation rate.

Out of all the technology experts in the room, it was the Plano East high school team, comprised of Trent Davies, 17; Bilal Ayub, 16; Ahmed Khan, 16; Matthew Laux, 17; and Jimmy Khong, 17 that put their computer science skills to work and took home the prize. Competing against 150 plus people, the students won the contest with oculr, an app that takes camera phone-snapped pictures of math equations and searches the Internet for instructions on how to solve the problem. What a great idea. At the kickoff of the competition, the students developed the idea in less than five minutes, gave a 60 second lightning pitch to a crowd of 150 professional developers, and then created the product the very next day. To conclude the competition, the team of sixteen and seventeen year old students presented a three-minute demonstration of the app prototype to a panel of judges,

experts in the technological field. I am incredibly impressed with their ability to create and put a new idea into action in only a 24-hour period. You are truly some of the best and brightest.

Technology touches our lives now more than ever before. Students encounter social media constantly outside the classroom so why not incorporate media into the classroom to further engage and prepare students for a technology-driven world? These five Plano students embody the future of innovation. I commend them for putting their creative minds to work for the betterment of their peers and the perpetual success of our community.

Once again, congratulations, students, on your outstanding accomplishment. I am proud to see such innovative thinking and active problem-solving from the youth in our great state of Texas. You all have very bright futures ahead of you. God Bless you.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRAQ WAR

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth anniversary since the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom and to remember the men and women of our armed services who have defended the United States in the war on terror.

Starting on March 20, 2003, and for nearly nine years thereafter, members of our Armed Forces fought to protect both their loved ones back home and Iraqi citizens from the many threats that lingered in the region. It was a long and difficult journey for us as a nation but none more so than the journey traveled and sacrifices made by our service men and women and their families. The United States lost 4,475 members of our armed services by the time we left Iraq in December 2011, and an additional 32,220 were wounded. I know that I speak for many when I say that these men and women, who gave so much for their country, are true American heroes whose names will be forever honored.

Our involvement in Iraq may be officially over, but we still face many threats as a nation, and there is much work ahead of us in the war on terror. We still have many members of our Armed Forces who continue this fight, both at home and abroad. On this important anniversary in the war on terror, I ask that

we take a moment to honor and recognize the many troops we have lost, the sacrifices made by those who stayed at home, and the men and women of our Armed Forces who remain on the front lines in the name of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the tenth anniversary of the war in Iraq. I thank my colleagues for joining me in honoring of the service men and women who have defended the United States.

CONGRATULATING THE GARDEN
THEATRE ON THEIR FIVE YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Garden Theatre of Winter Garden, Florida, on the celebration of their five year anniversary. The Garden Theatre works to provide cultural performing arts such as concerts, movies and live plays to the City of Winter Garden and the Central Florida region.

The Garden Theatre was originally constructed in 1935 in Mediterranean Revival style as a single-screen cinema where the community gathered to watch the most current newsreels and films. Through the years the theatre underwent various renovations until 1963, when it closed. In February 2008, because of the tireless effort put forth by the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation, the restored Garden Theatre reopened to the public.

While proudly representing historic downtown Winter Garden, the Garden Theatre affords economic development to the Central Florida region by presenting four to seven events each week and annually hosting over 200 events. A study from the Arts and Economic Prosperity Report estimated an annual economic impact from the theatre's operations and events to be more than \$1 million annually. During the past five years, the Garden Theatre has been active in Central Florida, enriching and entertaining the community through creative experiences while encouraging economic growth and providing nostalgic charm.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Garden Theatre as an outstanding local business, and I wish them many more successful years of providing quality performing arts to the Central Florida community.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS A. RIDER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas A. Rider for his continued dedication to the agricultural industries of Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley. Tom is a thoughtful, soft-spoken, intelligent leader and his contributions have translated to increased viability of these crucial industries throughout the Central Coast. It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Thomas A. Rider as the 2013 Al Smith Friend of Agriculture award winner.

Tom is part of the fifth generation of his family in the Pajaro Valley. He graduated from Watsonville High School in 1966 and went on in 1971 to obtain his degree from Oregon State University.

In the early to mid 1980s, Tom helped this family's business, H.A. Rider & Sons Bottles, make the successful transition from producing apple juice and cider to being a co-packer of flavored waters, brewed teas, energy drinks, and lemonades.

Tom has served on the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Legislative Committee, in addition to chairing the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency.

Later in his career, Tom served as the 4th Supervisorial District Representative for the Genetic Engineering Subcommittee for Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, HAS. Additionally, Tom represented the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau on the Transportation Funding Task Force, which is comprised of over 90 members representing business, neighborhood, environmental, health, and community-based organizations. Tom has also been a champion of the Basin Management Plan Committee for the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, PVWMA.

Committed to improving the agricultural industry, Tom is currently a board member for the Central Coast Agricultural Task Force, CCATF and a member of the Legislative Committee for the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that agricultural industries of Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley will continue to thrive with Tom's devotion.